GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:979
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Food Chargeable in Rajdhani and Shatabdi
Chinnayan Shri S.Selvakumara

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to withdraw and exclude the food charges in the tickets of all Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the details of the alternative steps being taken to serve the food onboard to the needy passengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c): No instructions have been issued to withdraw and exclude the food charges in the tickets of all Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains. However, as announced in Rail Budget 2016-17, Railways have decided to explore the possibility of making mandatory catering services optional. In order to widen the range of food options available to passengers and to mitigate passengers' complaints in regard to catering services, E-catering service has been introduced, through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in trains without pantry car or Train Side Vending as well as on 45 designated stations from where passengers of originating/passing trains can avail of this facility. IRCTC has tied up with renowned, reputed and established brands in the field of catering services so that the passengers can order good quality and hygienic food of their choice on payment basis. Further, to proliferate e-catering services, this scheme is being extended to all A1 and A category Railway stations.
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